

State reaps benefits; students still starving

Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's proposed \$4.4 billion state general fund budget for the 1989-91 biennium is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for the state of Oregon. But for University students, it looks more like the hurricane that left that rainbow.

Under the proposal, general-fund spending would rise 19.5 percent above the \$3.7 billion budgeted for the biennium that ends next June. But in order to fund Goldschmidt's massive monetary plan, the legislature will have to come to the rescue and break the state's spending limit — approximately \$225 million of the additional \$700 million from the 19.5 percent rise is outside the spending limit adopted in 1979.

So while Oregonians should be thrilled at the governor's "no new taxes" budget, we should be wary of the power of the legislature. Without legislative approval, Oregon won't have the opportunity to take advantage of the current economic successes and invest in a program that could hurdle the state over the next slump.

This is what Goldschmidt wants to do, and he should be allowed to do it.

In a nutshell, the governor's proposal is a response to the state's problems areas, to which he assigned interim task forces. His budget would allocate funds and program improvements for corrections, schools and mental health. Of the \$4.4 billion, education gets the biggest chunk at about \$2 billion; human resources is next in line at about \$1 million; property tax relief will get \$234 million; and corrections will get \$225 million. Additional expenditures (the "other" category) will account for \$823 million.

And while almost 80 percent of the proposal's funds are expected to come from personal income taxes, Goldschmidt claims the economy is "up and running" enough to pay for the program without raising taxes.

So Goldschmidt appears to be off and running with his proposed budget and should be lauded for his efforts, particularly in the area of education — if you're not a student, that is.

The proposal provides for faculty salary increases of 4 percent for the first year and 5 percent for the second year. Added salary help will be provided by a \$20 million "academic excellence" fund, which, along with private matching funds, gives all the system's schools an endowment designed to attract and hold the best scholars.

The major flaw in this plan, however, comes in what Goldschmidt sees as a "bonus" to both the University and Oregon State University. While these schools will be able to keep all of the revenue from an extra 5 percent tuition increase added to the 5 percent per year proposed for all of the institutions, rather than have the tuition receipts pooled and distributed system-wide, it is still a tuition increase that hits students in our most vital organ — our pocketbook.

The annual tuition and fees charged to full-time undergraduate resident students at the University is already \$1,648. Under the proposal, next fall's tuition will jump to about \$1,800.

From a student's perspective, it seems we'll only be able to eat four days a week now, rather than six. As long as we're educated, malnutrition doesn't matter.

Yes, for Oregon residents, Goldschmidt's general fund budget is reason to break out the bubbly and reap the benefits of what the economy can sow. Unfortunately, the state just hasn't sown enough to feed the starving students who will be forced to take up the slack by paying a tuition increase of 10 percent each of the next two years.



Letters

Frustration

Your editorial declaring "Local AIDS Center a must to combat growing threat" (ODE, Nov. 30) reflects much frustration and little investigation.

The current trend nationally in AIDS agencies is toward diversification and specialization in AIDS services, not the "one-stop shopping" concept in your proposed "AIDS service center." Communities all across the country are finding more effective service delivery in the consortium model: a variety of services working together in coalition.

We do, in fact, have a cooperative AIDS service network in our community. We have more than twenty agency and individual members in the Community AIDS Consortium meeting monthly to share resource information and take action on local AIDS-related issues. The University AIDS Task Force is another cooperative body with representation from campus and community groups meeting monthly to address the AIDS crisis.

Shanti in Oregon, providers of emotional and practical support, and the Willamette AIDS Council, providing AIDS education and prevention services, work together on each other's projects and meet weekly in a mutually supportive, cooperative AIDS Agency Coordinating Committee (AACC).

The now-closed Carper

House was also an active member of the AACC until the lack of city and county funding forced its close last summer. We are frustrated that we no longer have a residential care facility in Lane County and are lobbying our local government to re-open Carper House or an equivalent.

We have a Eugene Minority AIDS Coalition and several different support groups for people with AIDS in this community. People with AIDS and HIV infection have recently formed a PWA Coalition and participate in all the groups mentioned above.

I understand your frustration. The failure of this administration to acknowledge AIDS as a public health priority results in a frustrating lack of funding for existing and needed services. For an underfunded agency, money for publicity is hard to come by. Your criticism of local AIDS services' lack of cooperation missed the target. A more appropriate focus would be to combat the problem of low visibility for AIDS services. Care to volunteer on our committee?

Sally Sheklow
Director
Willamette AIDS Council

Yell and sing

Five minutes before writing this letter, I was at the Anti-CIA rally at the University.

I asked the directors of the rally if there would be opportunity to present opposing views. I was assured there would be an open mike at the end of the rally.

After waiting for this opportunity (and missing classes) it was announced that the rally would end with some singing and marching. I asked again about an open mike session, but this time I was told there was no time.

Apparently, these people don't want to discuss a problem and try to find solutions, they just want to rally, yell, sing and march about something.

I believe the CIA has committed atrocities against mankind. I believe they have murdered, spied, lied and probably much

more.

Now I pose to you this question: What positive outcome came from this rally? I saw a bunch of people with pre-conceived ideas, who were making each other feel good. They slammed a federal agency to the dirt and really enjoyed doing it. How many of those attending have done one thing that was positive toward shutting down the CIA or offering alternative ideas?

I admit the CIA is probably wrong. And politicians lie. And it rains in Oregon. If you're going to expend vast quantities of energy, try to do something that will have a real effect.

Brian K. Nobles
Eugene

Rights Week

We appreciate your article on Dec. 5 regarding the Human Rights Week activities on the University campus that commemorate the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

However, the article does not make clear that activities during Human Rights Week are being sponsored by a broad coalition of student groups on the University campus. LUNA has coordinated the week's events; however, it is not, as the article suggests, the only sponsor of the week.

Activities and endorsements from Students Against Apartheid, the UO/University of El Salvador Sister University Project, Latin American Support Committee, the Women's Resources Center, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the International Studies Association, MEChA, Native American Student Union and LUNA have created a whole week of events on international, national and local human rights issues.

Also, financial support from the IFC, ASUO, and the Foreign Students Organization was crucial in making the broad and diverse range of activities possible.

Achim Halpaap
Lane County
UN Association

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